

# Chinook Arch

February 2025  
Volume 7 Issue 2



ALBERTA FAMILY  
HISTORIES SOCIETY  
*Supporting worldwide family history research*

## NEXT SOCIETY MEETING

**Monday, February 10, 2025**

**Topic:** Using University Records for Genealogy Research  
**Speaker:** Janice Nickerson  
**Location:** Zoom (register on website calendar)  
**Time:** 7 – 9 pm

## FUTURE MEETINGS

**Monday, February 17, 2025**

**Topic:** Chit Chat Session  
**Hosts:** Linda Murray and Kelly Southworth  
**Location:** Zoom (link on website calendar)  
**Time:** 7 – 8:30 pm

**Monday, March 10, 2025**

**Topic:** Researching My Palatine Irish  
**Speaker:** Tara Shymanski  
**Location:** Zoom (register on website calendar)  
**Time:** 7 – 9 pm

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## NEWSLETTER SUBMISSIONS

Watch for our newsletter, *Chinook Arch*, distributed monthly by email from September to June.

We are looking for short articles with copyright-free pictures. Favourite relatives, fond family memories, research tips and tricks, new genealogy technology you love, book reviews or any related topics are accepted.

**Editor:** Amber Godfrey

**Email:** [chinookarch@afhs.ab.ca](mailto:chinookarch@afhs.ab.ca)

# President's Message

## Gordon Lane

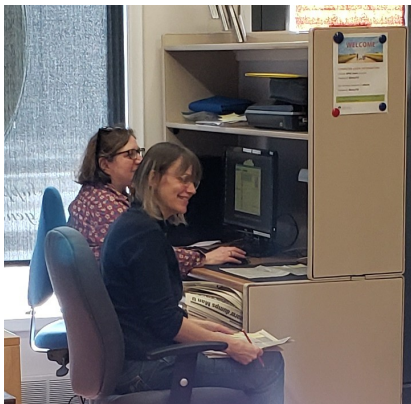
As we begin another year, I wanted to take a moment to thank the many volunteers who work hard to keep the Alberta Family Histories Society a vibrant and relevant group.

All of our Board Members, the Committee Chairs and other Key Volunteers, and our SIG Leaders help keep the Society running smoothly. These are the people who keep our lights on, our computers and technology up-to-date, our library well stocked and organized, our social media presence active, our websites running smoothly, our outreach programs happening, and our meetings supplied with interesting and informative speakers.

We have volunteers coordinating our fundraising efforts, organizing our conferences, answering queries from interested researchers, running our Special Interest Group meetings, and contributing to our newsletter, *Chinook Arch*. AFHS could not function without all these people! Thank you to everyone who contributes their time and expertise.



Cemetery Project volunteers at Granum Cemetery



Volunteers scanning newspaper clippings at AFHS Resource Centre



Gordon Lane (President)



Jim Benedict (Vice President)



Dorothy Clements (Secretary)



Larry Stone (Treasurer)



Sharon White (Events & Education)



Zoltan Walford (Facilities)



Anna Babaeva (Finance)



Linda Murray (Library & Research)



Stanley Clute (Marketing)



Suzanne Davidson (Member Relations)

AFHS Board of Directors

### Christopher Hilliard of the North West Mounted Police

Shelley Lunney

I was doing some research for the Enniskillen, Fermanagh, Ireland genealogy group and came across the story of Christopher Hilliard. He was born in Enniskillen, Fermanagh, Northern Ireland, on May 31, 1863. He immigrated to Canada at age 18 and on April 2, 1882 joined the North West Mounted Police (NWMP) in Toronto.

Hilliard was one of 213 men transferred to Fort Walsh, Saskatchewan. The group went to Duluth, Minnesota, by train. They then travelled down the Missouri River to Fort Benton by side-wheeler, one of the first steam powered ships that had large paddle wheels on both sides. Later in life, he recalled that during that river journey they saw buffalo hides in piles that looked like haystacks lining the riverside awaiting pick up, and the boat was held up once by a large herd of buffalo crossing the river in front of them. The journey to Fort Walsh, Saskatchewan, continued by foot and bull wagon.

The group finally arrived at Fort Walsh in the summer of 1882. Staying only a short time in Fort Walsh, Hilliard and 59 other officers travelled overland to Fort MacLeod, Alberta. When they arrived in Fort McLeod, Hilliard was dispatched to the Blood Reserve at Standoff, south of the fort, where in 1883 he was put in charge of the log books for the detachment.

In 1886, he was posted back to Fort MacLeod and promoted to Sergeant. Then he was transferred to Battleford, Saskatchewan, and stationed at the Onion Lake detachment. The following year he was posted back to Fort MacLeod again and promoted to Acting Sergeant Major. Disliking life in the barracks, Hil-

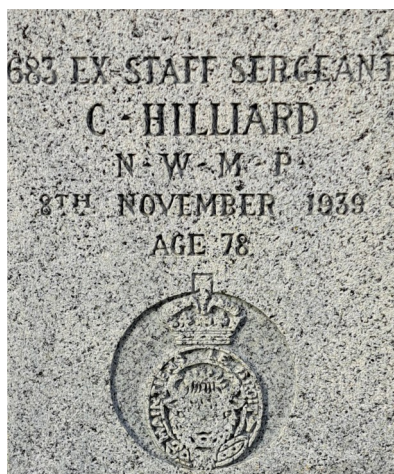
liard requested a transfer back to the Blood Reserve at Standoff. He remained there until 1903 and took his discharge from the force at Wood Mountain, Saskatchewan, in 1904.

The North West Mounted Police had the title Royal added to their name by King Edward VII in 1904, as recognition for their service in the Boer War and for the 30 years they had spent policing the North West and Yukon territories.

In 1899, Hilliard married Corinne Adele de Bellefeuille in Fort MacLeod. She was born in St. Eustache, Quebec, on July 25, 1858 and lived with a cousin in Fort MacLeod who was a North West Mounted Police inspector. After their marriage, they lived at the NWMP Division in Standoff. The couple had seven children: Marguerite Lillian, Robert Christopher, Mary Kathleen, Alexander Roderick "Roddy", Kenneth Charles, Stanley R., and Eileen Catherine (1918).

Pension records held at Library and Archives Canada show that Hilliard's salary was an average of \$547.50 annually during the last three years prior to his discharge. This meant his pension would be \$282.80 annually.

Hilliard was considered an old school policeman who demonstrated very good conduct, as evidenced by his quick promotions. He retired to his farm near Standoff after his discharge and died there on November 8, 1939. Corinne Hilliard lived nearly 30 more years and died in Fort MacLeod on December 4, 1968. At that time, the family had grown to include 23 grandchildren and 42 great-grandchildren. Christopher and Corinne are interred in the North West Mounted Police Field of Honor in Union Cemetery in Fort MacLeod.



## Special Interest Groups

**SPECIAL INTEREST GROUPS (SIGs) are the ideal place to expand your knowledge and share your own family history challenges.** The small-group setting gives you an opportunity to ask questions and get help from more experienced researchers.

**SIGs are now being held in three formats: in-person only, Zoom only or a hybrid version of in-person & Zoom.** Check the calendar on our website for up-to-date information or email the SIG leader. The SIG groups do not meet during July and August.

SIGs are a major AFHS member benefit. If you would like to attend a SIG meeting to try one out before joining, ask for an invitation from [communications@afhs.ab.ca](mailto:communications@afhs.ab.ca)

SIG GROUP	NEXT MEETING	TIME	CONTACT
BASICS	Saturday, February 22	10 am – Noon	<a href="mailto:basics@afhs.ab.ca">basics@afhs.ab.ca</a>
CELTIC (Irish/Scots)	Saturday, March 22	10 am – Noon	<a href="mailto:celticsig@afhs.ab.ca">celticsig@afhs.ab.ca</a>
DIGITAL GENEALOGY	Saturday, February 8	10 am – Noon	<a href="mailto:familygenes@afhs.ab.ca">familygenes@afhs.ab.ca</a>
DNA	Sunday, March 9	12:30 – 2:30 pm	<a href="mailto:dnasig@afhs.ab.ca">dnasig@afhs.ab.ca</a>
ENGLISH/WELSH	Saturday, February 15	10 am – Noon	<a href="mailto:englishwelshsig@afhs.ab.ca">englishwelshsig@afhs.ab.ca</a>
FAMILY TREE MAKER	Saturday, March 1	10 am – Noon	<a href="mailto:ftmsig@afhs.ab.ca">ftmsig@afhs.ab.ca</a>
LEGACY	Tuesday, February 25	7:00 – 9:00 pm	<a href="mailto:legacysig@afhs.ab.ca">legacysig@afhs.ab.ca</a>
ONTARIO	Monday, February 24	1:30 – 3:30 pm	<a href="mailto:ontariosig@afhs.ab.ca">ontariosig@afhs.ab.ca</a>
WRITING	Friday, February 14	9:30 – 11:30 am	<a href="mailto:writing@afhs.ab.ca">writing@afhs.ab.ca</a>

The AFHS Resource Centre is located at **712-16 Avenue NW, Calgary** and all in-person SIG group meetings are held there. Members are encouraged to stay after meetings, when possible, to browse the collection!

Our collection has over twelve thousand print items and many are available to be borrowed for a one-month loan. Electronic resources include computers, a multi-function printer, scanners (flatbed and overhead) and a microfiche reader. Journals from around the world are available to view in either print or digital formats. As a **FamilySearch Affiliate Library**, visitors can now view additional FamilySearch digital records at the AFHS Resource Centre that they can't see at home. We also have a subscription to the Canadian newspapers on Newspaper Archive.

## SIG NEWS

If you or someone you know would like attend as a guest at a SIG meeting, request an invitation at [communications@afhs.ab.ca](mailto:communications@afhs.ab.ca).

Our members can watch recorded sessions of past Society and SIG meetings and view handouts at the AFHS website. You must be **signed in** to the website to access them. Go to Resources, then click on Meeting Videos & Handouts.

Check back for new content as it is constantly being added!

- The Ontario SIG discussed how and why family names changed at their January meeting.
- The Legacy SIG has a theme for 2024-2025, *Story Telling: Using Legacy software to build the framework for our stories*, and will work each month on creating those stories.
- The February meeting of the English/Welsh SIG will be a presentation on marriage by Stephanie Morton, with sharing by group members.

### After You're Gone: Future Proofing Your Genealogy Research

Thomas MacEntee, of Genealogy Bargains

Try as we might, we really have little control over what will happen to our possessions, even our bodies, after we die. Yes, we can draw up legal documents, we can express our wishes to family members and more; however, there are no guarantees when it comes to these matters. The best we can do is prepare, plan and communicate now.

When it comes to your years of genealogy research and material, what plans have you made to ensure that it doesn't die with you?

Here are some tips for future proofing your genealogy research and making sure it is preserved for others to use for generations to come:

- **Take inventory.** Determine what you have, and this includes hard copy as well as digital assets and online sites.
- **Include in estate planning.** Create a codicil to your will or make sure there are some form of instructions concerning your genealogy research.
- **Appoint a legacy contact.** Ancestry, Google, MyHeritage and other sites that store personal information allow you to appoint a "legacy contact" ... someone to take over your account in case you pass away or become incapacitated.
- **Backup your data.** Backing up your genealogy data is a good habit for the living, and it will keep all your info in one place for your executor.
- **Futureproof your technology.** CD-ROM discs degrade over time. Negatives and movie films can fade and fall apart. Transfer items to digital ASAP.
- **Have that conversation with your family.** Be very clear about where your genealogy research is located, why it is important and what you want done with it.
- **Contact organizations.** Determine which libraries, societies and archives will accept all or part of your collection. Donate items you don't need NOW.
- **Post items online.** Consider starting a blog – even a private one – to preserve your family stories. Do the same with a family tree on Ancestry or one of the popular genealogy sites.
- **Do stuff NOW.** Tell your own stories NOW. Write that genealogy book NOW. Interview family members NOW.

For more tips from Thomas MacEntee on future proofing your genealogy, go to:

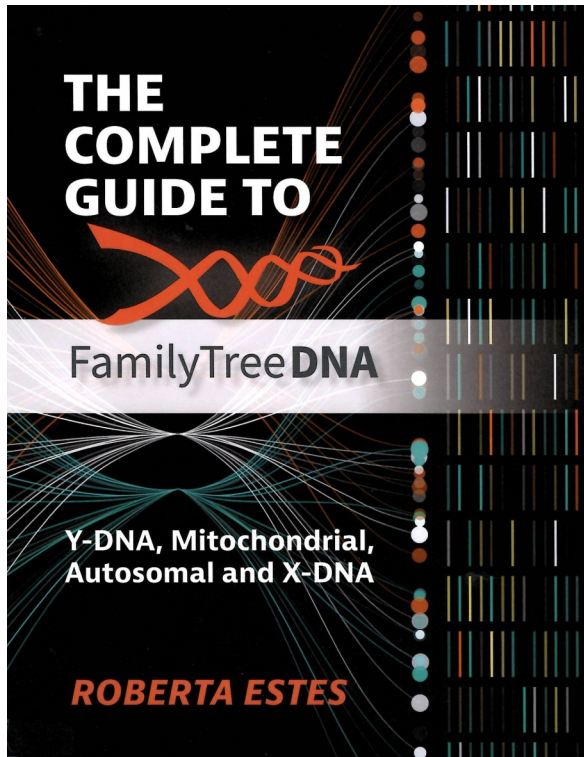
<https://education.myheritage.com/downloads/future-proofing-and-preserving-your-genealogy-by-thomas-macentee>

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## Book Review

*The Complete Guide to FamilyTreeDNA: Y-DNA, Mitochondrial, Autosomal and X-DNA* by Roberta Estes

Amber Godfrey



AFHS Call #: 574.87 ESTE 2024

A new edition to the AFHS Resource Centre library, this book by Roberta Estes is focused on the FamilyTreeDNA company but also includes a lot of basic information on how DNA testing has evolved and improved over time.

FamilyTreeDNA was founded by genealogist Bennett Greenspan and his partner Max Blankfield over two decades ago to help “crazy genealogists” determine family relationships using genetic tools. At the forefront of the genetic genealogy industry, the company started with Y-DNA testing to help determine if two male customers were related to a common ancestor. Now in 2025, the company offers Y-DNA, Mitochondrial, Autosomal and X-DNA testing options.

<https://www.familytreedna.com>

Estes covers the history of DNA testing and how genealogists began using it to help prove their ancestral lines. She talks about the four different tests and explains what they can tell you. Y-DNA covers your father’s line, mitochondrial DNA follows your mother’s line, autosomal helps place you in your family group and X-DNA is an additional test that differs from autosomal testing and helps you narrow down your ancestral lines.

As well as explaining the types of tests, Estes includes chapters on setting yourself up for success, how your ethnicity estimate works, the benefits of joining group projects, how third party tools can be useful and how to create a step-by-step roadmap. The book includes a glossary with definitions of DNA terms.

Estes also describes her website, DNAeXplained, that has over 1,700 free blog articles. The site is keyword searchable so you can look for a specific word or subject. She also offers a free email notification when she publishes a new article. The website in the book is an older version, and I have included the new one here:

<https://dna-explained.com>

Her final advice is to not get overwhelmed by your DNA journey. Her last paragraph is titled *You Don't Know What You Don't Know!* She advises you to focus on one thing at a time and learn as you go.

There are many books available at the AFHS Resource Centre to help you learn more about DNA. To see what we have available to borrow, just sign in to the AFHS website, go to Resources > Resource Centre > and click on the *Go to AFHS Library Catalogue* button.

You can also join our monthly DNA SIG. There you can ask questions and learn from our more experienced members.

Estes reminds us that “the longest journey begins with a single step.”

## Upcoming Events

### CALGARY PUBLIC LIBRARY

#### Family History Coaching

In-person at Central Library

**Calgary Public Library**

February 22, 2025 1:00 – 3:00 pm

<https://calgarylibrary.ca/events-and-programs/programs/family-history-coaching>

### AFHS WORKSHOP

#### Genealogy 101 Workshop

Two Hybrid Sessions

March 2 & 16, 2025 1:30 – 3:30 pm

One In-Person Session

March 30, 2025 1:30 – 3:30 pm

Registration deadline is March 1, 2025

Free for AFHS members, \$50 for non-members

<https://afhs.ab.ca/event/genealogy-101-3-part-workshop/2025-03-02>

### UPCOMING EVENTS

\*all times listed are in MDT

#### Beyond the Index: A Deep Dive into Norwegian Church Records with Torhild Shirley

Virtual

**Victoria Genealogical Society**

February 15, 2025 11:00 am

[www.victoriags.org](http://www.victoriags.org)

#### Excel for Family Archivists

Virtual

**Victoria Genealogical Society**

February 22, 2025 11:00 am

[www.victoriags.org](http://www.victoriags.org)

#### Getting Into the Habit: Researching Female Religious in Your Family Tree with David Ryan

Virtual

**Ontario Ancestors**

March 6, 2025 5:00 pm

<https://ogs.on.ca/march-webinar-getting-into-the-habit-researching-female-religious-in-your-family-tree-david-ryan>

#### RootsTech 2025

Virtual or In-Person

**FamilySearch**

March 6 – 8, 2025

\*\*Class schedule is now online\*\*

[www.familysearch.org/en/rootstech](http://www.familysearch.org/en/rootstech)

#### 24-Hour Genealogy Webinar Marathon

Virtual

**Legacy Family Tree Webinars**

April 3 – 5, 2025

<https://familytreewebinars.com/24-marathon>

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## About Our Society

**Alberta Family Histories Society** is a registered non-profit organization that welcomes anyone interested in genealogy and family history! For over 40 years, we've helped people grow their family trees and discover the stories of their roots. We have substantial resources about Calgary and southern Alberta but can help you research your roots worldwide. Our website is <https://afhs.ab.ca>.

We learn from each other in a variety of settings – Society meetings, **Special Interest Group** meetings, workshops and biannual conferences. For up-to-date meeting information, see our website calendar at <https://afhs.ab.ca/calendar>.

Visit one of our most valuable resources - the **AFHS Resource Centre**! While our collection has an emphasis on materials pertaining to Alberta and Canada, we also have basic genealogy books and information from around the world. AFHS is a **FamilySearch Affiliate Library**, which gives you access to FamilySearch records you can't view at home. Our volunteers look forward to showing you what we have to offer for your genealogy research! You can view a catalogue of our holdings at <https://afhs.ab.ca/library>.

Documenting local historical records is part of our mission. **Alberta Ancestors** is a special project to showcase cemetery records at <https://albertaancestors.ca>. We have over 300 cemeteries now and over 250,000 memorials.

Members have a wealth of opportunities to share strategies, struggles, successes and stories with others who appreciate the challenges of this hobby. One option is for members to share family tree projects and to post stories online as part of our **Family Genes** website at <https://www.familygenes.ca>.

We welcome visitors, so please drop in at a meeting and introduce yourself. Come see how our services and programs can fit your needs. We hope you will join us either in-person or virtually! To receive a guest Zoom invitation to one of the **AFHS Society Meetings**, contact Marion at [communications@afhs.ab.ca](mailto:communications@afhs.ab.ca).

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## AFHS RESOURCE CENTRE

**712 - 16 Avenue NW  
Calgary, AB T2M 0J8**

### Winter Hours

Thursday, 10 am - 2 pm

Friday, 10 am - 2 pm

Saturday, Noon - 4 pm

Check our website calendar for any time changes or closures.

<https://afhs.ab.ca/calendar>



## CONTACT US

**Email:** [info@afhs.ab.ca](mailto:info@afhs.ab.ca)

**Website:** [www.afhs.ab.ca](http://www.afhs.ab.ca)

**Phone:** 403-214-1447

**Facebook:** Alberta Family Histories Society

**Instagram:** abfamilyhistoriessociety



### Land Acknowledgement

In the spirit of reconciliation, we would like to acknowledge that the land on which we gather and where we work to preserve the records and family history of those who came before us are on the traditional territories of the Blackfoot Confederacy (comprising of the Siksika, Kainai, and Piikani First Nations), the Tsúú't'ínà, the Stoney Nakoda (including the Chiniki, Bearspaw and Goodstoney First Nations), the Métis Nation (Districts 5 & 6) and all people who make their homes in the Treaty 7 region of Southern Alberta.